- E-mail story
- Printer-friendly
- E-mail editor
- Comments
- iPod friendly

‘Intelligent’ equipment, improved transport could be in future

Monday, January 15, 2007

Alas, we still don’t have George Jetson’s flying car. But the future looks bright for skiing. Here are some predictions from our three sources — John Fry, author of “The History of Modern Skiing;” Jim Carroll, futurist, trends and innovation expert; and Michael Berry, president of the National Ski Areas Association:

• We’ll see innovations in snow-riding equipment. (Think way beyond snow bikes.)

• More ski areas will offer year-round activities. (Alpine slides are only the beginning.)

• Equipment will be intelligent. (Some skis already contain a chip that communicates the release of energy on the ski.)

• Ski areas will have portable office areas to allow skiers to take work breaks. (Bluetooth already makes that possible for multitaskers.)

• Trail signs will feature large print to cater to older skiers (unless Lasik becomes universal).

• Training will be more fun, as skiers ride Vail’s back bowls with a gaming device that works in their home. (Think Nintendo Wii.)

• Look for private ski resorts — like country clubs with snow.

• Driving to the resort will be easy; sensors will guide our SUVs on a special high-speed road. (No, no trains. We won’t give up our cars.)

• Transport mechanisms will change drastically. The magic carpet could become a real magic carpet.

• As the population nearly doubles in the West in the next 40 years, small mom-and-pop resorts will thrive. (Echo Mountain Park, anyone?)

• Video will rule. Web camps and ride analyzers are just the beginning. How about a wired terrain park that picks up a rider’s signal and films him while he does his best moves? (Think YouTube with instant gratification.)

• Goggles will be smart. Using the helmet-mounted display the military uses, you’ll get trail

maps projected on your goggles. (And you thought goggles that didn't fog over were cool.)

Comments

Post a comment

(Requires free LJWorld.com registration. Your lawrence.com account will also work, if you have one.)

Username:

Password: (Forgotten your password?)

Comment:

Preview comment

Contents of this site are © Copyright 2007 The Lawrence Journal-World. All rights reserved.